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Risca Urban District Council.

Annual Reports

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

and the Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE

Year ended 31st December, 1938

RISCA, MON.
Risca Printing Works.
—
1939.

Risca Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the year ending 31st December, 1938.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
RISCA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for your district. This report is compiled according to instructions contained in Circular 1728 (Wales).

Section A.—Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area of the District (in acres)	4,195
Population (Census 1931)	16,605
Estimated (1938)	14,840
Population, 1934	16,180
Population, 1935	15,920
Population, 1936	15,570
Population, 1937	14,990

Number of Inhabited Houses.—The number of inhabited houses (end of 1938) is

Rateable Value.—£51,756.

Sum represented by one penny rate, £180 (estimated).

Social Conditions.—The chief industries carried on in this area are coal mining and its subsidiary industries, also steel and tinplate manufacturing. There are also several stone quarries and brickworks. These industries do not have any particular influence on public health.

The By-Product Plant at Risca Colliery is shut down and also the Tinplate Department at Pontymister.

Extent of Unemployment.—The state of unemployment during the year was as follows:—

	Men	Women	Boys	Girls	Total
No. unemployed in January, 1938 ...	879	98	35	67	1,079
No. unemployed in December, 1938 ...	1,145	92	59	71	1,367
Aver. No. unempld. per year for 1938	1,360	94	70	70	1,594

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total.	Males.	Females.
Live Births	**228**	**124**	**104**
Legitimate	**220**	**120**	**100**
Illegitimate	**8**	**4**	**4**
Still Births—			
Legitimate	**12**	**7**	**5**
Illegitimate	**1**	**0**	**1**

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ... **1.53**

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population for 1937 **14.5**

The Birth Rate for England and Wales **15.1**

The Birth Rate for Monmouthshire was **16.1**

	Total.	Males.	Females.
Deaths	**170**	**90**	**80**

Crude Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population **11.4**

The adjusted Death Rate was **13.4**

Deaths from Puerperal Causes—

Death Rate per 1,000 total births **8.7**

Peurperal Sepsis **0**

Other Puerperal Causes **2**

The Maternal Mortality for England and Wales was **2.97**

Death Rate for England and Wales was **11.6**

Death Rate for County of Monmouth **12.1**

Infant Mortality—

	Total.	Males.	Females.
Death of Infants under 1 year	**9**	**6**	**3**
Legitimate	**9**	**6**	**3**
Illegitimate	**0**	**0**	**0**

Death Rate of Infants under I year of age—

All infants per 1,000 live births **39.4**

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ... **0**

Deaths from Measles (all ages) **0**

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) **0**

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) **0**

Infant Death Rate for England and Wales was **53**

Infant Death Rate for County of Monmouth **55.8**

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Typhoid	—	Other Circulatory	11
Measles	—	Bronchitis	7
Scarlet Fever	1	Pneumonia	6
Whooping Cough	—	Other Respiratory	—
Diphtheria	—	Septic Ulcer	4
Influenza	1	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	Appendicitis	2
Cerebro Spino Fever	—	Cirrhosis of the Liver	1
Respiratory Tuberculosis	4	Other Liver Diseases	1
Other Tuberculosis	2	Other Digestive Diseases	8
Syphilis	—	Nephritis	7
General Paralysis of the Insane	2	Puerperal Sepsis	—
Cancer	23	Other Puerperal	2
Diabetes	4	Congenital Causes	6
Cerebral Haemorrhage	15	Senility	8
Heart Disease	35	Suicide	1
Anaeurism	—	Other Violence	8
Poliopytitis	—	Other Causes	11

Death of Children under 1 year.

Under 1 week	1	
1-2 weeks	—	
2-3 weeks	—	
3-4 weeks	3	
Total under 1 month		4
1-3 months	2	
3-6 months	—	
6-9 months	3	
9-12 months	—	
Total under 1 year		5
Total		9

There were no cases of sickness or infirmity specially noteworthy during the year or any conditions of occupation or environment which would be prejudicial to health.

There is no evidence, statistical or otherwise that unemployment has exercised any significant influence on the health or physique of children or adults.

SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1.—Public Health Officers of the Authority.

Part-time Medical Officers of Health and a whole-time Sanitary Inspector who acts as Foods Inspector.

2.—There are no changes in the services provided under the following heads:—

(a) Laboratory Facilities.

(b) Ambulance Facilities.
The St. John Ambulance is available for accidents and sickness to which a number of the population contribute a small weekly fee.
There are also two private ambulances in the district for hire. Contracts are made with these by several of the works in the District.

(c) Nursing in the Home.
There is a very efficient voluntary Nursing Association in the Area which employs three district nurses.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres.
These are available and controlled by the Monmouthshire County Council.

(e) Hospitals, Public and Voluntary.
The hospitals used are the Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport; Cardiff Royal Infirmary and the Hospitals controlled by the Monmouthshire County Council Public Assistance Committee.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1.—Water.

The particulars of water supplies has not materially altered. Where new houses are being built under the Housing Scheme these are to be connected up with the existing mains. The supply during the year has been on the whole satisfactory (a) in quantity; (b) in quality.

Samples of the water have been examined chemically and bacteriologically and have been found to be satisfactory.

2.—Drains and Sewerage.

For particulars under this head see Sanitary Inspector's report.

3.—Rivers and Streams.

No action was taken to check the pollution of Rivers and Streams in the area during the year.

4.—**Closet Accommodation.**

Particulars will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

5.—**Public Cleansing.**

The only change under this heading that another up-to-date lorry has been purchased. The tipping ground is well looked after, but there is very little available ground for future use for tipping.

6.—**Sanitary Inspection of the Area.**

I think the Sanitary Inspection of the area has been very satisfactorily performed during the year. For details see Sanitary Inspector's report enclosed.

7.—**Shops.**

No special action has been taken under the Shops Act, 1934, during the year. Inspections and Supervision have been regularly made.

8.—**Smoke Abatement.**

No action was taken in reference to this paragraph apart from a few minor arrangements. There is not a great deal of smoke causing a nuisance in this area.

9.—**Swimming Baths and Pools.**

There is one public open-air Swimming Pool owned by the Council. This pool is used to a great extent and is conducted in a very satisfactory manner.

10.—**Camping Sites.**

There are no camping sites in this area.

11.—**Eradication of Bed Bugs.**

We have no record kept of Council or other houses found to be infested.

The methods employed for clearing infested houses from bed bugs are crude gas water and carbolic disinfectant.

No fumigation has been employed up to date.

The belongings of tenants removing into Council Houses are inspected in every case, but no vermin was found, and no special action was found necessary.

Disinfestation is carried out by the Local Authority.

The houses are visited periodically by the Council's officials, inspections made and instruction and advice given to the tenants.

12.—**Schools.**

The Sanitary conditions and water supply of the schools still remain satisfactory. Visits of inspection are periodically made and any defects, etc., found, reported to the Education Authority. It was not found necessary to close the schools owing to epidemics of infectious diseases during the year.

SECTION D.

1.—Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 1137

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 1256

(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925... ... 45

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 53

(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation Nil

(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation Nil

2.—Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 256

3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 574

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices 498

(a) By owners 498

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners —

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied —

(2) Number of Dwelling Houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—

(a) By owners —

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners... —

(c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition orders were made 17

(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 25

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made —

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit —

4.—**Housing Act, 1936, Overcrowding.**

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 51

(ii) Number of families dwelling therein 62

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year Nil

(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 46

(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... —

(d) Particulars of any houses becoming overcrowded after first relief Nil

(e) Plans for the erection of 104 houses are being considered for proceeding at earliest possible date under Slum Clearance and Overcrowding —

SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.—Farms and Dairies have been regularly inspected and samples of milk taken and examined for bacterial content and for tubercle bacilli, under the various Milk and Dairies Orders. For details see Sanitary Inspector's Report.

I consider the Milk Supply of your area is still very satisfactory.

(b) Meats and Other Foods.—For action taken with regard to Meat and Other Foods, Slaughter Houses, etc., see Sanitary Inspector's Report.

There is no Meat Marking Scheme under Part 111 of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924 in force in this area.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) ...	395	—	185	3494	1359
Number inspected	376	—	168	2865	1314
All diseases except Tuberculosis:					
Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned...	93	—	45	152	249
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	% 4 1/5	—	% 4 1/10	% 23 1/5	% 5 2/5
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned...	32	—	22	45	125
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	% 12.3	—	% 8.4	% 77	% 1.8

(c) Adulteration.—No special action was taken under these Acts and Regulations.

(d) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.—Ample use is made of the facilities provided by the County Laboratory.

(e) Nutrition.—No action has been taken under this Section.

(f) Shell Fish.—This does not affect our Area.

SECTION F.—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever was still prevalent in the early months of the year. 150 cases being notified. It was a mild type and isolation was carried out in the patients' homes.

There were three cases of Diphtheria and one of Enteric Fever.

Diphtheria.—Anti-toxin is supplied by the Council and is regularly used by the Practitioners of the Area.

There were only three cases of Puerperal Pyrexia and these rapidly cleared up at the use of Prontoseyl.

There were only 14 cases of Pneumonia notified, and they were not particularly virulent.

There were no cases of malaria or disentry

We have no Infectious Diseases Hospitals.

The County Scheme which has been approved by the Ministry entails the erection of a hospital to supply a number of adjacent areas and our area. These areas are as follows:—Rhymney Urban, Tredegar Urban, Ebbw Vale Urban, Nantyglo and Blaina Urban, Bedwellty Urban, Abertillery Urban, Mynyddislwyn Urban, Abercarn Urban, Bedwas and Machen Urban, Risca Urban, Blaenavon Urban, Pontypool Urban, Cwmbran Urban.

It will be some time before the scheme comes into operation.

Influenza was not prevalent last year.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

During the year ending 31st December, 1938, no further work under the above heading was done. Only three cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year.

Inspection of Factories and Workshops.

Premises	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories with mechanical power ...	14	9	—
Factories without mechanical power ...	7	5	—
Other Premises	9	7	—
	—	—	—
Total	30	21	—
	—	—	—

Defects Found in Factories and Workshops.

	Defects Found	Defects Remedied	Refer to H.M.S. Insp.	Prosecutions
Want of Cleanliness ...	9	9	—	—
Overcrowding	3	3	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation ...	7	7	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	6	6	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences:				
Insufficient	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective...	2	2	—	—
Not separate for sexes...	—	—	—	—
Other offences	3	3	—	—
	—	—	—	—
Total ...	30	30	—	—
	—	—	—	—

(a) Cancer.—There was still slight increase in the prevalence of Cancer. The number of deaths from this case being 23 as against 21 last year. Full use is made for treatment, etc., under the National Radium Centre. No special investigations have been undertaken by the Council.

(b) Prevention of Blindness.—It was not found necessary to take any special action under this section.

TUBERCULOSIS.

(c) Tuberculosis.—The efficiency of notification of Tuberculosis in this area has been very satisfactory during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

	New Cases.				Deaths			
Age	Pulmonary		Non Pul.		Pulmonary		Non Pul.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0			1				1	
1				1				1
5			1					
10								
15								
20	3	4	2	1		1		
25	1	4	1	2		2		
35		2						
45	1	2						
55	2	1				1		
65								
Totals	7	13	5	4		4	1	1

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Diseases.	Cases Notified. Age Groups.												Deaths. Age Groups.													
	Under age	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 & over	TOTAL all ages.	Under age	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 & over	TOTAL all ages.
Enteric Fever																										
Diphtheria						1	1		1				3													
Scarlet Fever	1	6	6	9	25	44	37	8	8	4	2		150							1						1
Pneumonia						2	1	1	3	4	3		14											5	1	6
Erysipelas																										
Totals.	1	6	6	9	25	47	39	9	12	8	5		167							1				5	1	7

Midwives.—The number of midwives practising in the area is five:

Risca	3
Pontymister	1
Pontywain	1

On the whole I consider that the year 1938 has been very satisfactory in regard to general health and sanitary conditions of your Area.

The epidemic of Scarlet Fever which occurred in 1937 quickly subsided at the beginning of the year.

With regard to Housing, great strides have been made to secure the clearance of unfit houses and the removal of the occupants to new houses.

The overcrowding problem will, I hope, be practically solved by the end of next year.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

NOEL N. WADE, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Risca Urban District Council.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year Ending December, 1938.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE RISCA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit herewith my 37th Annual Report on the general Sanitary operations during the year ending December 31st, 1938.

INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

During the process of general inspection of the district, the number of visits and revisits made for all purposes total 3,396.

This figure represents calls made under overcrowding orders; demolition and slum clearance regulations and ordinary inspections, which include provision of and fixing.

Troughing	730ft. 0in.
Downpipes	540ft. 0in.
Chamber frames	23
Chamber covers	35
Roof Repairs	54
Roofs, new	14
Yard Surface drainage	11
Chimney Repairs	35
Smoke nuisances	7
Repairs to doors and frames	43
New doors and frames	31
Plaster Work (ceiling repairs)	35
Plaster Work (new ceilings)	26
Plaster Work (Partitions)	15
Drains cleared	41
Drain repairs	23
New drains	37
Providing and fixing new lavatory pans	24
Providing and fixing new flush tanks	39
Repairs to flush tanks	42
Provision of new lavatory accommodation	11

Water services repaired	13
Water services laid	15
New floors laid	17
Floors repaired	19
New coppers provided and fixed	16
Copper settings repaired	21
Stair rails fixed	15
Landing rails provided	7
New trap gullies provided and fixed	27
Repairs to kitchen fire grates	19
New kitchen and other firegrates provided	14
Window cords provided and fixed	15
Window fastenings provided and fixed	13
New risers to lavatory pans	9
Lengths of V.P. in C.I. provided and fixed	44
Window frames repairs	26
New frames provided and fixed	17
New window sashes provided and fixed	15

MILK SUPPLY.

There are 42 milk traders operating in your area:

19 of whom are Producer Retailers

23 of whom are Retailers only.

5 traders are working on a Supplementary Licence.

3 dealing in a supply of "Pasteurised" Milk

2 in ordinary supply.

Of 18 samples of milk submitted to the County Laboratory, 10 were submitted to a bacteriological test and found satisfactory; 8 were slightly below the required standard, as based on the keeping qualities of the samples.

Of the 18 samples, 13 were produced outside your area and 5 in your district, the abnormal conditions were slight. These conditions could be brought about by peculiar climatic conditions, storage facilities and conveniences.

In reference to the samples produced outside your area, a copy of the analyst's report was sent to the Inspector for that district, when he would take the necessary steps to advise the producers.

In a similar manner producers resident in your district have been advised, and the premises visited.

The various premises have been periodically inspected, and during such inspections the varied matters requiring attention was specified and attended to:—

Improved Ventilation	3
Increased Lighting	2
Repairs to floors	5
Repairs to roofs	7
General Cleansing and Limewashing	3
Rendering wall internally	5
Painting wall internally from floor to 4ft high	3
Provision of nameplates on sewers	2
Cleansing and painting of vehicles for transport of churns	3

MEAT INSPECTION.

Beasts	Pigs	Sheep	Calves	Pigs Privately	
395	1359	3494	185	12	5445

The following were condemned and destroyed as unfit for human consumption:—

Cows' Livers, Multiple Abscesses	5
do. Tuberculosis	9
do. Ulceration	3
Pigs' Heads, (T.B.) Glands	7
Pigs' Plucks, Congestion and Cirrhosis	5
Pigs' Livers, Cirrhosis	6
Sheeps' Livers, Distomatosis	9
do. Hydro nephrosis	7
Pigs' Livers, Necrosis	8

OTHER FOODS SURRENDERED AND DESTROYED.

Bacon	43 lbs.
Offal, etc.	276 lbs.
Fruit	56 lbs.
Miscellaneous	49 lbs.
	424 lbs.
Wet Fish	67 lbs.
Dried Fish	45 lbs.
Total	536 lbs.

Canned Goods.

Tomatoes	14
Milk	7
Pineapple	5
Pears	17
Peaches	9
Beans	16
Plums	3
Greengages	4
Peas	6
Salmon	15
Herrings	3
Total	99

The above foods were located during inspection of shops, and when found, were surrendered. In most cases it was found that the conditions that qualified condemnation were set up by retention in stock for unusual periods,, proving industrial depression; and enforced employment outside your district boundary, in the various factories set up, and upon public works in adjoining areas.

Every assistance was given during the process of examination, and removal for destruction at your gas works.

LODGING HOUSES.

Only one common Lodging House is contained in your area, and is situated in St. Mary Street, Risca.

There are at present 26 residents that may be termed permanent, with an occasional or casual caller for a night or so. There is accommodation for 34 persons, and is registered as such.

This building is regularly inspected and the cleansing of rooms, bedding etc., checked up.

Any irregularity or necessary requirement is passed on to the manager, and is put in order or rectified.

BAKEHOUSES.

The bakehouses of the district are periodically inspected for cleanliness etc. The machinery installed for use in some of these buildings receives special attention (in particular) for presence of and retention of dust.

Any defect located is complained of verbally, or by written notice to the responsible person, and attended to.

Then again due attention is paid to the condition of troughs, tables, tins, etc.

It has been pointed out on several occasions that the retention of numerous boxes and bottles used in the preparation of pastries, fancy bread etc., are dust retainers, and every time they are disturbed the dust must again settle, and unless the goods are properly protected by wrappers or paper, the foods at that stage of the process becomes contaminated with such settlement to the detriment of consumers' health.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

Private.

The number of slaughterhouses in your district totals 9, of these 3 are situated in North Ward, 4 in the Central, and 2 in the South Ward.

The slaughtering of animals for food is carried out by means of mechanical appliances, such as the "Captive Bolt," Electric Tongs or The Gun. These instruments are used to create insensibility before the process or operation of bleeding.

The "Gun" is in general use in this district.

This instrument somewhat resembles a revolver, and is loaded with a round of ammunition of sufficient calibre to do the necessary work.

The bullets used on beasts are larger than those for same operation on smaller animals, calves, pigs, etc.

In addition to the locally prepared meat, quite a quantity of imported meat is sold, and again a proportion of this food is bought from Markets at Newport and Cardiff.

The various means of transport is kept under observation for general cleanliness, and coverings, as a protection against contamination by dust during handling and also during transit by train or lorry.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ORDERS.

Particulars as to inspections and defects remedied, repairs effected will be found in the section of this report contributed by the Medical Officer of Health, copies of which in tabulated form, have been posted to the Central Board of Health, Cardiff.

The Under Secretary of State,
(Statistical Branch) Home Officer,
20, Great Smith Street,
London, S.W.1.

and to the

Health Department,
Mon. County Council,
County Hall,
Newport, Mon.

INSPECTION OF G.W.R. CO.'S CANAL.

This waterway runs through the entire length of your district from north to south,, approximately 2 2/3 miles.

This channel was formerly used as a means for conveyance of various building materials and other products.

For some years this business is cut out by improved means of transport.

The owners draw supplies for various purposes at their stations and goods yards, general cleansing and provision of fire extinguishing emergencies.

Alongside the canal is a towpath, much used, a favourite walk during summer time.

The congested road routes are forsaken for the more pleasant and safe conditions.

While sometimes these conditions are interferred with by deposits of carcases of unwanted dogs, cats, etc., but upon notification to the proper authority, these disturbing factors are removed and properly disposed of.

VAN DWELLINGS.

It is only occasionally that the users of van dwellings give any trouble in your district. They may sometimes be located at the extreme end of your district.

In that event they are allowed 24 hours in which to affect repairs necessary to wheels or harness.

In the event of an outbreak of infectious disease, the van and occupants are held up for the necessary period, and the disinfection of clothing and van is completed.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifications attended to 227; and Disinfections, including 34 specials.

RAG AND BONE DEALERS.

Special attention is given to this business.

The non-residents who carry on this trade are considerably reduced by the fact you have a Marine Store Dealer in your area, and collections are regularly made by his men throughout the district, and do the work without exposing themselves to liability for irregularities during such process. Several successful prosecutions from this area has been helpful to that end.

Yours obediently,

D. THOMAS, C.R.S.I., M.I., M.S.I.A.,
Sanitary Inspector and
Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.